

sent out each year by the Internal Revenue Service are wrong. They are wrong. Yet the IRS has a very unforgiving view when others make mistakes. For example, the IRS once fined a taxpayer \$46,000 for an alleged underpayment of 10 cents.

That is why I have cosponsored the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act: to provide taxpayers new protections and rights to address many of the abuses spotlighted in the Senate hearings. Once we provide more protection for taxpayers, we must then simplify the current system and end the IRS as we presently know it.

It is my goal, it is the Republican goal, to end overtaxation in America. It is my goal to help Americans keep more of the money they earn so they can do more for themselves, for their families, and for their communities.

I ask my colleagues to join with me to make it happen, and I ask Congress to work with us to make sure Washington wastes less of our money and our families are able to keep more of what we earn.

VIETNAM—THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw the House of Representatives' attention to statements received at a Member's briefing I co-chaired on the human rights situation in Vietnam on September 30, 1997.

This briefing included testimony from experts from international, religious, and human rights' organizations on the social and political state of Vietnam. In addition to myself, the gentlewoman from California, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, the gentlewoman from Ohio, Ms. MARCY KAPTUR, and the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. TOM DAVIS, were also in attendance to hear the recommendations from these witnesses.

Madam Speaker, I request the statements made at the briefing be submitted for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This past June, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visited Vietnam to formally open the U.S. Embassy. The recent establishment of diplomatic relations reflects historic changes of the United States-Vietnamese relations since the end of the Vietnam war in 1975 and the lifting of the embargo in 1994.

I believe that with the normalization of relations between the two countries comes a great responsibility. Now, more than ever before, it is of critical importance we pay careful attention to the progression of developments.

DEMOCRATS SHOULD STOP HELPING WHITE HOUSE OBSTRUCT JUSTICE

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Madam Speaker, more and more Americans are concerned about the fund-raising scandal going on and the coverup going on over at the White House. In fact, a majority of Americans are now calling for an independent prosecutor. Yet all the Democrats give us is the "they did it, too."

But the New York Times editorial said on July 16, 1997, quote, the White House fundraising scandal cannot be covered up by the standard spin of the "they-did-it-too" or the equally shop worn "whoops-sorry-about-that."

The Detroit News says there is a pattern here. The administration appears to have perfected the art of delay and obstruction. Democrats have been dragooned into doing the downfield blocking and tackling in Congress for the sleaziest White House since U.S. Grant. And videotapes, documents, and witnesses are discovered too late to be examined before congressional hearings. That is the New York Times and the Detroit News.

I ask the Democrats to show moral courage, step forward and stop helping this White House obstruct justice.

NO PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, last week I visited six schools in Atlanta: Inman Park Preschool, Morningside, Adamsville, Cook Elementary School, Walden Middle School, and Grady High School. What parents, teachers, administrators, and students all told me was we should not allow Republicans to take money away from our public schools and give it to private and religious schools.

Madam Speaker, the American people want strong public schools, not private school vouchers for a privileged few. Nine out of 10 children attend public schools. Each and every one deserves a first-class education. That is why Democrats want to invest in public schools.

What do the Republicans propose? Abolish the Department of Education, divert resources to private and religious schools. And today we consider a sneaky plan that uses the Tax Code to undermine support for public schools.

Madam Speaker, our children deserve better than easy schemes and quick-fix solutions. Stop scheming and invest in public education.

THE EFFECTS OF NAFTA AND FAST-TRACK

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, since NAFTA has begun, Florida agriculture has lost

in excess of \$1 billion; Florida tomato farmers have alone lost \$750 million.

So much for level playing fields and reduced tariffs. According to the O'Conner & Hannan law firm of Washington DC, "For tomatoes, the losses are clearly due to the dumping of Mexican tomatoes in the U.S. market as determined by the Commerce Department. The primary cause of the injuries to Florida agriculture is NAFTA and its ineffectual safeguard provisions."

The Florida Department of Citrus has further informed me, that after 3 years of NAFTA, Florida citrus is still not even allowed into Mexico. How is this possibly free or fair trade?

Congress needs to stand up to this destruction of American industries such as agriculture.

The administration and the proponents of granting renewed fast-track authority have failed to articulate the economic imperative of granting such authority.

Trade deals should be negotiated when possible on a case-by-case basis and given the stature of a formal treaty.

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY HONORING LESLIE TOWNES (BOB) HOPE

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 56) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony honoring Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope by conferring upon him the status of an honorary veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, reserving the right to object, will the gentleman from Ohio please explain the resolution?

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. KILPATRICK. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, Bob Hope, of course we all know, has been successful in all the areas of show business, but the Committee on Veterans' Affairs believes that Bob Hope's most important contribution to our American society was entertaining the Nation's troops.

He actually attempted to enlist, in his adopted country, into the service, and he was told that the greatest service he could do for the country was to entertain troops, which he has done since World War II all the way through the Persian Gulf.

He was also cited by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most honored entertainer in the world. But I think what stands out most in the American population's mind in this country is how he put himself in harm's way, although he went with